

Kennedy's Agency Prober Criticizes Recruiting System

By Thomas B. Kendrick
Staff Reporter

James McCauley Landis, chosen by President-elect John F. Kennedy to investigate the Federal administrative agencies, said last night these "devices have failed to fulfill the goals set for them in the 1930s."

The chief failure, Landis told members of the Harvard Law School Alumni Association at the Cosmos Club, has been in "properly manning these agencies."

Landis criticized the "prevailing" lack of standards for selecting and retaining qualified personnel and "an absence of systematic recruitment at both staff and policy levels."

He contrasted the present situation to the 1930s, during which regulatory agencies "attempted to and got the best men from law schools. Now the situation is the reverse."

Landis blamed "a lack of belief in the capacity of government to drive toward solution of the problems that lie on our doorstep, rather than dollars" for the present manpower problem.

He indicated he would recommend "more systematic screening processes" for prospective agency members at all levels, and the establishment of stiffer qualification requirements in his report to the President-elect, due Dec. 15.

Landis also scored the much criticized agencies for "excessive costs" which damage individual rights and for "lack of efficiency at a variety of levels."

The former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Civil Aeronautics Board said "we have scattered huge problems among various agencies and failed to coordinate them."

"Our agencies exhibit no broad sense of policy," he added. Instead "of a mosaic of decisions, we get only sporadic decisions and individual settlements." Landis declared

president for 1961. He succeeds Thomas G. Corcoran. Named vice president was C. Emerson Duncan; secretary, A. B. McCabe and treasurer, Richard H. Strodel.

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